



NYU
SHANGHAI

GLOBAL CHINA STUDIES

Founded in 2012, NYU Shanghai is China's first Sino-US research university and the third degree-granting campus of the NYU Global Network. The university seeks to cultivate globally minded graduates through innovative teaching, world-class research, and a commitment to public service.

Global China Studies is an interdisciplinary program that focuses on China's interactions with the wider world, as well as trends within China, at individual, societal, state, and global levels, and in the context of socio-economic, religious, cultural, and political transformations. Scholars in Global China Studies are trained in various disciplines, including East Asian languages and civilizations, religion, literature, law, and communication studies. Their research and teaching span pre-modern, modern, and contemporary China. Faculty in Global China Studies lead the Center for Global Asia, NYU Shanghai-ECNU Center on Global History, Economy, and Culture, and the Digital Heritage Lab, which create space for intellectual dialogues and collaborations about China or Asia in the global network of NYU.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Undergraduate Studies

NYU Shanghai Degree [Undergraduate Studies in Global China Studies](#)

NYU Shanghai students earn a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree conferred by New York University—the same degree awarded at our New York campus—as well as a Chinese diploma recognized by the Chinese government, qualifying graduates for opportunities both in China and around the world.

Beyond the scope of conventional area studies, the innovative major of Global China Studies allows students to cultivate up-to-date knowledge and critical skills about China. The Global China Studies major offers two options. Students may opt to take the track that requires an extensive study of China in a global setting through the completion of an interdisciplinary curriculum without the need for additional Chinese language courses. Students could also choose the advanced track option, which trains students to acquire a higher level of Chinese proficiency in addition to developing focused research skills needed for postgraduate professional and academic pursuits. In either case, majors in Global China Studies will graduate with the capacity to become qualified practitioners and thinkers of a changing China in the world.

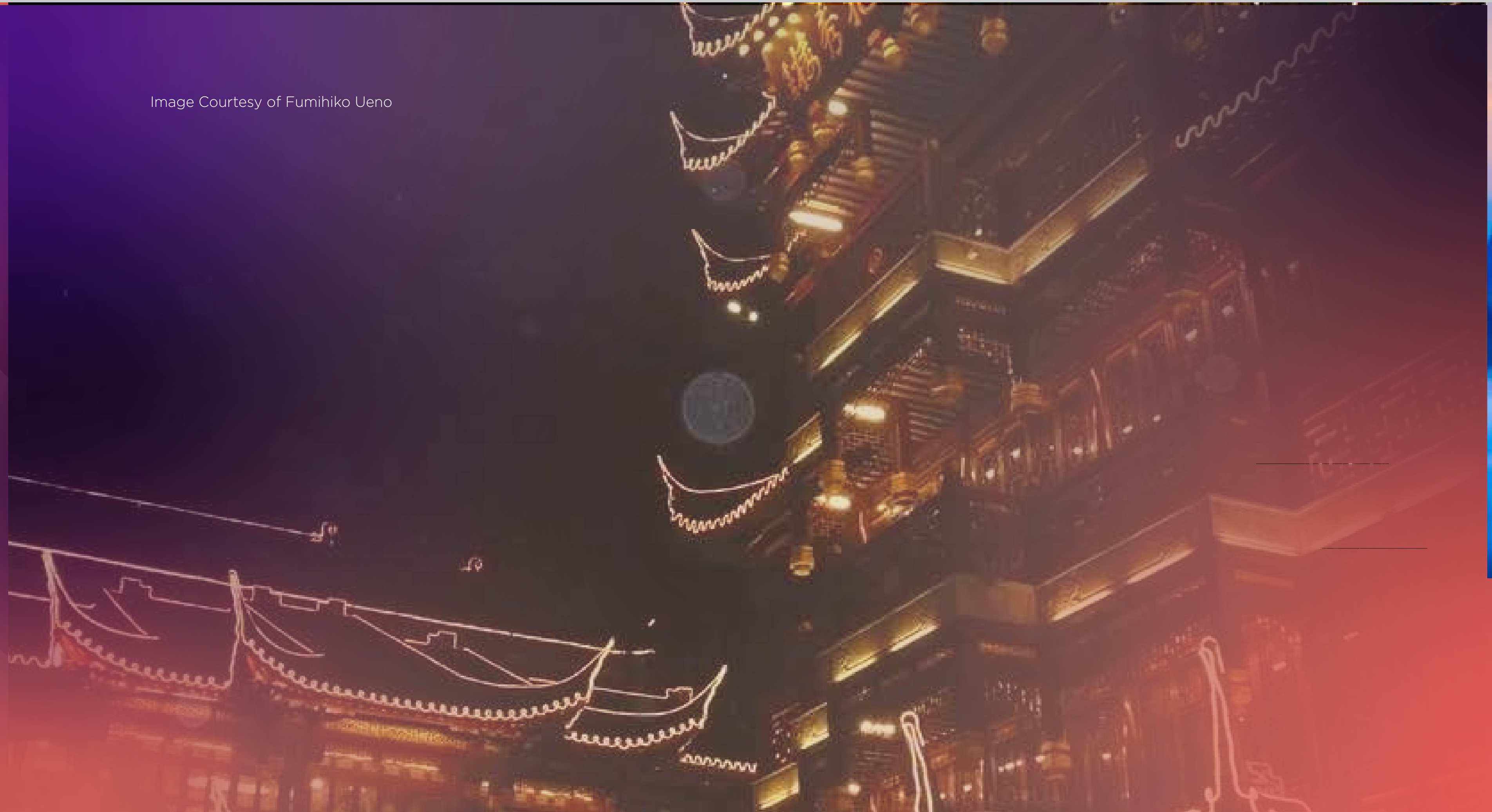


Image Courtesy of Fumihiko Ueno

RESEARCH

NYU Shanghai-ECNU Center on Global History, Economy, and Culture

NYU Shanghai-ECNU Center on Global History, Economy, and Culture studies the development and changes in the international strategic framework of China's peaceful rise and the shift of world orders. This center covers a wide range of research areas, including the history of the Cold War, 20th-century international relations, Sino-US relations, China's reform and opening-up era, and China's relations with its neighboring countries. Moreover, this Center holds regular theme-based academic conferences, guest lectures, research talks, and other exchange opportunities with global experts in international relations, politics, society, history, economy, and culture.

Center Directors:

[Chen Jian](#) Co-Director of GHEC, Distinguished Global Network Professor of History, NYU Shanghai and NYU

[Shen Zhihua](#) Co-Director of GHEC, Distinguished Professor of the Department of History, ECNU

The Center for Global Asia at NYU Shanghai

The [Center for Global Asia at NYU Shanghai](#) serves as the hub within the NYU Global Network University system to promote the study of Asian interactions and comparisons, both historical and contemporary. The overall objective of the Center is to provide global societies with information on the contexts for the reemerging connections between the various parts of Asia through research and teaching. This includes exploring how the polities and societies of Asia have interacted over time and are now beginning to interact again on broad fronts. The Center also encourages the examination of Asia's connections with the wider world, focusing specifically on how these connections have in the past and at present impact Asian societies. Collaborating not only with the various NYU campuses and portal sites, but also with other institutions across the world, the Center seeks to play a bridging role between existing Asian studies knowledge silos. It will take the lead in drawing connections and comparisons between the existing fields of Asian studies, and stimulating new ways of understanding Asia in a globalized world.

Center Director:

[Tansen Sen](#) Director of the Center for Global Asia, Professor of History, NYU Shanghai; Associated Professor of History, NYU



Cover Image Courtesy of Rod Waddington



Image Courtesy of Wu-Wei Chen

The Digital Heritage Lab

The [Digital Heritage Lab](#) is a research group that connects faculty, students, and researchers at NYU Shanghai who are interested in studying, critically analyzing, and creating innovative projects on cultural heritage sites in China and Asia. The Lab collaborates with the local community in China, Asia, and universities worldwide to resolve conflicts and challenges by documenting, researching, and preserving historical monuments and cultural heritage. These collaborations within and outside China will benefit faculty research and student training and showcase NYU Shanghai's innovative digital humanities and heritage studies projects. The Lab is a platform to study Chinese, Asian, and Indian Ocean heritage issues and present these findings to a global community of scholars, students, and research institutions.

The physical space of the Digital Heritage Lab is located at W914 on our Qiantan campus, where all NYU Shanghai students and faculty can meet for teachings and discussions on topics related to cultural heritage in Asia. They may also use the space and equipment in the lab to develop digital and conservation projects and exhibit the final products they create in the Lab. A small reading corner is designed for people to browse the Lab faculty's own book collections and publications.

Lab Director:

[Lala Zuo](#) Director of Digital Heritage Lab, Associate Professor of Art History



MARIA ADELE CARRAI

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN GLOBAL CHINA STUDIES

Email: adele.carrai@nyu.edu

Education: PhD Law, The University of Hong Kong

Research Interests: Global China, International Law, International Relations, & Legal History

Maria Adele Carrai is an Assistant Professor of Global China Studies at NYU Shanghai. Her research explores the history of international law in East Asia and investigates how China's rise as a global power shapes norms and redefines the international distribution of power. She co-leads the Research Initiative 'Mapping Global China,' and is the author of *Sovereignty in China. A Genealogy of a Concept since 1840 (CUP 2019)* and co-editor of *The China Questions 2 - Critical Insights into US-China Relations (HUP 2022)*. Before joining NYU Shanghai, she was a recipient of a three-year Marie-Curie fellowship at KU Leuven. She was also a Fellow at the Italian Academy of Columbia University, Princeton-Harvard China and the World Program, Max Weber Program of the European University Institute of Florence, and New York University Law School.



CHEN JIAN

DIRECTOR OF NYU SHANGHAI-ECNU CENTER ON GLOBAL HISTORY, ECONOMY AND CULTURE,

DISTINGUISHED GLOBAL NETWORK PROFESSOR, NYU SHANGHAI;

GLOBAL NETWORK PROFESSOR, NYU

Email: jc6772@nyu.edu

Education: PhD History, Southern Illinois University

Research Interests: History of Chinese-American Relations, Modern Chinese History, Chinese Foreign Policy and Security Strategies, Cold War International History

Chen is a leading scholar in modern Chinese history, the history of Chinese-American relations, and Cold War international history. Among his many publications are *China's Road to the Korean War* (1994), *The China Challenge in the 21st Century: Implications for U.S. Foreign Policy* (1997), and *Mao's China and the Cold War* (2001). He is now completing a diplomatic and political biography of Zhou Enlai.



TANSEN SEN

DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR GLOBAL ASIA, PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, NYU SHANGHAI;

ASSOCIATED PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, NYU

Email: ts107@nyu.edu

Education: PhD, University of Pennsylvania

Research Interests:

Asian History and Religions, India-China Interactions, Indian Ocean Connections, & Buddhism

Tansen Sen is Director of the Center for Global Asia, Professor of History, NYU Shanghai; Associated Professor of History, NYU. He specializes in Asian history and religions and has special scholarly interests in India-China interactions, Indian Ocean connections, and Buddhism. He is the author of *Buddhism, Diplomacy, and Trade: The Realignment of Sino-Indian Relations, 600-1400* (2003; 2016) and *India, China, and the World: A Connected History* (2017). He has co-authored (with Victor H. Mair) *Traditional China in Asian and World History* (2012) and edited *Buddhism Across Asia: Networks of Material, Cultural and Intellectual Exchange* (2014). He is currently working on a book about Zheng He's maritime expeditions in the early fifteenth century and co-editing (with Engseng Ho) the *Cambridge History of the Indian Ocean, volume 1*.



LENA SCHEEN

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN GLOBAL CHINA STUDIES

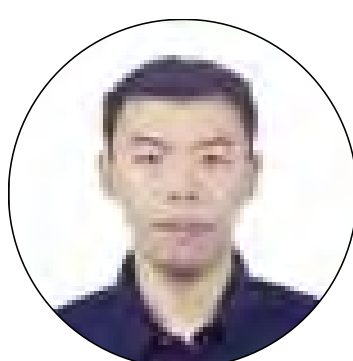
Email: lms14@nyu.edu

Education: PhD China Studies, Leiden University

Research Interests:

Urbanization in China, Shanghai History and Culture, Cultural Heritage, Historical Memory, & Chinese Literature

Lena Scheen's research explores the social, cultural, and mental impact of fast urbanization, focusing on Shanghai and storytelling. She is the author of *Shanghai Literary Imaginings: A City in Transformation (AUP, 2015)*, the first book-length study that gives a full overview of literary culture in Shanghai since 1990, critically engaging with Chinese-language scholarship. She co-edited (with Chow Yiu Fai and Jeroen de Kloet) *Boredom, Shanzhai and Digitisation in the Time of Creative China* and (with Jeroen de Kloet) *Spectacle and the City: Chinese Urbanities in Popular Culture and Art*. Scheen's second monograph on Shanghai's heritage politics will be published in 2023 as part of the Brill series on "Ideas, History, and Modern China," edited by Wang Hui (Tsinghua University) and Ban Wang (Stanford University). The book examines the role of storytelling and place-based historical memory in heritage politics. It is based on seven years of archival research and field studies of historical sites and museums, as well as the collection of oral histories from citizens about demolished places.



MINHAO ZHAI

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR FACULTY FELLOW OF GLOBAL CHINA STUDIES

Email: mzhai@nyu.edu

Education: PhD Religion, Princeton University

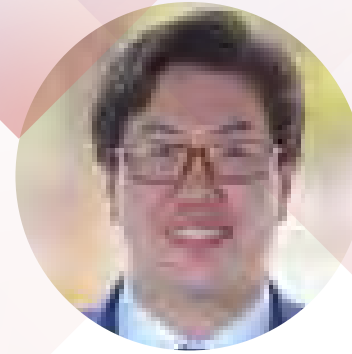
Research Interests:

Chinese Buddhism, Chinese Religion, Dunhuang & Turfan Manuscripts, Silk Road, & Buddhist Rituals

Minhao Zhai is an Assistant Professor Faculty Fellow of Global China Studies at NYU Shanghai. He received his BA and MA from Fudan University. He later studied Chinese religion at Princeton and got his doctorate in 2022. His dissertation explores how Buddhism, as an imported religion, contributed to the formation of talismanic culture in medieval China. Minhao is currently working on a book manuscript based on his dissertation. In the book, by employing both transmitted Buddhist texts and medieval manuscripts from Dunhuang, he reveals how different religious elements, home or foreign, were creatively utilized in the making, using, and understanding of talismans in medieval China. The book also aims to participate in the broader conversation on empowered objects in religions.

FACULTY

*By Alphabetical Order of Last Name



ZHAO LU

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF GLOBAL CHINA STUDIES AT NYU SHANGHAI;

GLOBAL NETWORK ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, NYU

Email: lz69@nyu.edu

Education: PhD East Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Pennsylvania

Research Interests: Confucian Classicism, Divination, History of Emotions, & Travel

Zhao Lu works on traditional Chinese intellectual and cultural history. From Han dynasty classicism to Dunhuang divination, from the unorthodox presentations of Confucius to the emotion of anxiety, his research is especially interested in how individuals made innovations in localized and extreme situations to cope with their anxieties and difficulties. He is the author of *In Pursuit of the Great Peace* (SUNY 2019) and co-author of *Dice and Gods on the Silk Road* (Brill, 2021) and *Miscellany of the South Seas* (University of Washington Press, 2023). Currently, he's working with Bloomberg on a book manuscript regarding the unorthodox images of Confucius in traditional China and the modern world. His future plans also include initiating group projects on a trans-regional history of divination.



MENG DIE ZHAO

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR FACULTY FELLOW OF GLOBAL CHINA STUDIES

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Education: PhD, East Asian Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University

Research Interests: Late Imperial Chinese Literature, Legal History, & Gender Studies

Mengdie Zhao is a scholar of Chinese literature with interests in legal history and gender studies. Her first book project, tentatively titled *Shades of Justice: Law, Legal Culture, and Literary Experimentation in Early Modern China*, examines the formation of new literary genres and narrative patterns in crime stories from the 15th to the early 20th century that went hand in hand with the expansion of the judicial infrastructure. It also undermines unconventional critiques of law and presents alternative visions of justice as depicted in popular literary texts in the early modern era.



ZHIQIU BENSON ZHOU

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF GLOBAL CHINA STUDIES

Email: zzhou@nyu.edu

Education: PhD Rhetoric and Public Culture, Northwestern University

Research Interests: Media Culture, Queer Studies, Gender, Race, & Digital Media

Zhiqiu Benson Zhou is an Assistant Professor of Global China Studies at NYU Shanghai. His research investigates topics that lie at the intersection of media culture, queerness, gender, and race in transnational contexts. He is currently working on a book project that examines the emergence of sexual norms and sexual hierarchies in Chinese queer communities. This ethnographic work analyzes how transnational media, global capital, and Chinese politics have jointly shaped perceptions of ideal gayness in China over the past decade. His other projects focus on how marginalized communities deploy media technologies to negotiate space in China and discriminatory discourses on social media.



XIN ZOU

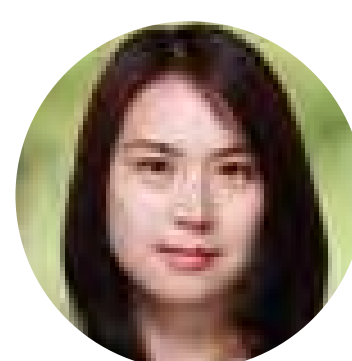
DIRECTOR OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE PROGRAM, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF GLOBAL CHINA STUDIES

Email: xin.zou@nyu.edu

Education: PhD Chinese Literature and Culture, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Research Interests: Classical Chinese literature, Tang poetry and narratives, & Chinese Language Pedagogy

Xin Zou is an Associate Professor of Global China Studies and the Director of the Chinese Language Program at NYU Shanghai. She received her BA in Chinese Language and Literature from Peking University, China, MA and PhD in Chinese Literature and Culture, and MS in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA. A scholar of classical Chinese literature and culture, Zou studies the emergence of new genres that reshaped the Tang-Song literary landscape. Zou's second area of research and writing focuses on Chinese language pedagogy. Having earlier co-authored *Eyes on China: An Intermediate-Advanced Reader of Modern Chinese* (Princeton University Press, 2019), her current research delves into language reforms in modern China to explore their implications for contemporary language pedagogy.



LALA ZUO

DIRECTOR OF DIGITAL HERITAGE LAB, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ART HISTORY

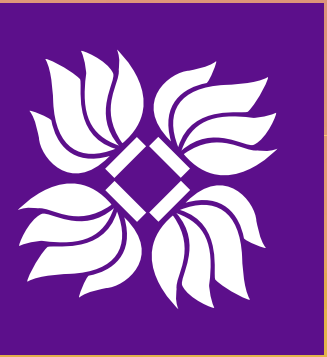
Email: lala.zuo@nyu.edu

Education: PhD East Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Pennsylvania

Research Interests: Architecture in Asia, Chinese Art and Archaeology, & Digital Heritage

Lala Zuo is an Associate Professor of Art History at NYU Shanghai specializing in East Asian art and architecture. She received her BA in archaeology from Peking University with a special concentration on heritage architecture. She studied East Asian art history in addition to architectural history and theory at the University of Pennsylvania, where she earned both her MA and Ph.D. Professor Zuo is the author of *Diversity under the Great Unity: Yuan Regional Architecture*, the first in-depth English-language work to present regional traditions of Chinese architecture based on a detailed study of the timber construction system. In addition to her primary research interest in the architecture of mid-and-late imperial China, she has also published multiple scholarly articles about heritage preservation and digital projects on art and architectural history.

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